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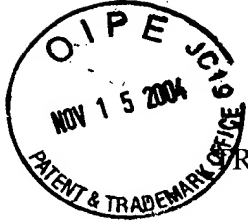
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For: TRANSFORMERLESS POWER
SUPPLY DUAL POSITIVE OR DUAL
NEGATIVE SUPPLIES

**REPLACEMENT SPECIFICATION
MARKED UP VERSION**



TRANSFORMERLESS POWER SUPPLY, DUAL POSITIVE OR DUAL NEGATIVE SUPPLIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

[0001] This patent application is a 371 of International Application No. PCT/US00/04152 filed February 18, 2000, which claims priority to the originally filed Provisional Application No. 60/120,586 filed February 18, 1999. the teachings and disclosure of which are hereby incorporated in their entireties by reference thereto. This PCT application was published in English.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a transformerless direct current (dc) power supply. More particularly, this invention is directed to a circuit for being interconnected to a high voltage alternating current (ac) supply producing either a dual positive or a dual negative dc power supply.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED TECHNOLOGY

[0003] Transformerless capacitor arrangements for creating a low voltage direct current source are well known in the field of power supplies. One simple example is the half-wave voltage doubler consisting of two diodes and two capacitors. The circuit is shown in FIG. 7, along with its voltage source, load resistance and voltage regulator.

[0004] The operation of the half-wave doubler is easy to understand. During the negative alterations of the ac input, diode (126) is reversed biased and diode (127) is forward biased by the ac input signal polarity. Capacitor (143) is charged until its plate-to-plate voltage is equal to the source voltage. At the same time, capacitor (144) is discharging through the load resistance.

[0005] When the ac input polarity reverses, diode (127) is off. Capacitor (413) is charged to the peak value of $V_{L1(PK)}$ and the source voltage now acts as a series-aiding source. Thus, capacitor (144) is charged to the sum of the series of peak voltages, $2 V_{L1(PK)}$.

[0006] When V_s returns to its original polarity, diode (126) is again turned off. Once diode (126) is off, the only charge path for capacitor (144) is through the load resistance. Normally, the time constant of this current circuit will be such that capacitor (144) has little time to lose any of its charge before the input reverses polarity again. In other words, during the negative alteration of the input, capacitor (144) will be discharged slightly.

Then, during the positive alterations, diode (126) is turned on and capacitor (144) recharges until its plate-to-plate voltage again equals $2V_{L1(PK)}$.

[0007] Since capacitor (144) barely discharged between input cycles, the output waveform of the half-wave voltage doubler closely resembles that of a filtered half-wave rectifier. Typical input and output waveforms for a half-wave voltage doubler are shown in FIG. 6. As the figure shows, the circuit will have a dc output voltage and a ripple voltage that closely resembles the output from a filtered rectifier. The dc output voltage is approximated as

$$V_{dc} \cong 2V_{L1(PK)}$$

The output ripple voltage is calculated using the same process that was used for the filtered half-wave rectifier.

$$V_r \cong \frac{I_L t}{C}$$

where V_r = ripple voltage peak-to-peak
 I_L = dc load current
 t = time between charging peaks
 C = capacitance

[0008] Incidentally, if the directions of diodes 126 and 127 are reversed, the result is a negative half-wave voltage doubler.

[0009] One application for the voltage multiplier can be seen in a basic dual-polarity dc power supply. A dual-polarity supply is one that provides both a positive and a negative dc output voltage. One such supply is shown in FIG. 8. Thus, point A will be positive with respect to ground and point B will be negative with respect to ground. Note that the two dc output voltages will be approximately equal to the magnitude of $V_{L1(PK)}$. For example, if $V_{L1(PK)}$ is $24 V_{pk}$, the power supply will have outputs that are approximately equal to $+24 V_{dc}$ and $-24 V_{dc}$. Conventional transformerless capacitor arrangements produce one negative and one positive supply thus requiring more energy. These supplies are exemplified in U.S. Patent No. 5,440,443 and U.S. Patent No. 5,365,146, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. It is the Applicant's believe that the prior art has not used a transformerless capacitor arrangement for converting either the positive or negative supply to the opposite polarity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The present invention provides a dual positive or a dual negative output power supply instead of the traditional one positive and one negative output supply. The direct current (dc) power supply unit has a transformerless capacitor arrangement for creating a first low voltage dc output and a second low voltage dc output from an alternating current (ac) power supply wherein the second dc output has the same plurality of the first dc output. Inverting the polarity is accomplished by a transistor in either the common emitter configuration or the common source configuration.

[0011] In another embodiment, a relay voltage may be provided that may be controlled by a microprocessor.

[0012] An object of the invention is to provide a circuit that delivers two positive and two negative power supply voltages as opposed to the single negative and single positive power supply previously disclosed.

[0013] It is an object of the present invention to cost effectively simulate the power generated from a full wave rectifier circuit.

[0014] It is an object of the present invention to provide a low power source for electronic controls.

[0015] It is an object of the present invention to provide a safety feature for a power supply.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] FIG. 1 shows the details of the circuit during the positive-half line cycle.

[0017] FIG. 2 shows the details of the circuit during the negative-half line cycle.

[0018] FIG. 3 shows the details of the circuit during the positive-half when capacitor voltage reaches the zener threshold.

[0019] FIG. 4 shows the details of the circuit during the negative-half when capacitor voltage reaches the zener threshold.

[0020] FIG. 5A shows a dual negative supply.

[0021] FIG. 5B shows a dual positive supply.

[0022] FIG. 5C shows an alternate dual negative supply.

[0023] FIG. 5D shows an alternate dual positive supply.

[0024] FIG. 6 shows typical input and output waveforms for a half-wave voltage doubler.

[0025] FIG. 7 shows a prior art power supply.

[0026] FIG. 8 shows a prior art dual power supply.

[0027] FIG. 9 shows another embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0028] A power supply can be broken down into three circuit groups: rectifier, filter and voltage regulator. In the first group, an alternating current (ac) input signal is applied to a rectifier circuit for converting the ac input signal into a pulsating (dc) output signal. This pulsating dc output signal is then applied to a filter circuit to reduce the variations in the dc voltage. The final stage is the voltage regulator circuit which is used to maintain a constant output signal.

[0029] According to an advantageous feature of the invention, an ac input signal may be applied to a first wave rectifier for a positive-half cycle of the ac input signal to produce a pulsating dc output signal. The output signal of the first wave rectifier may then be applied to a first filter and first voltage regulator (*e.g.*, one zener diode or two zener diodes) to produce a first power supply. During the negative-half cycle of the ac input signal, a transistor in either a common emitter or common source configuration may be used to shift the ac input signal by 180 degrees. This shifted voltage is then applied to a second rectifier for converting the shifter ac input signal into a pulsating dc output signal. Finally, the output of the second filter is applied to a second voltage regulator (*e.g.*, one zener diode or two series zener diodes) to produce a second power supply. The second power supply will have the same polarity as the first power supply.

[0030] FIG. 5A shows the operation of the above embodiment. FIGS. 1-4 break down the operation of FIG. 5A into half cycles of the input ac input signal (*i.e.*, positive-half cycle and negative-half cycle). FIGS. 1-4 only show the active components of the circuit during the particular half cycle.

[0031] FIG. 1 show the positive-half of an ac input signal during the first few cycles of the ac input signal (*i.e.*, when the voltage at L_1 (1) is positive). On the positive-half cycle, diode (20) will conduct current that flows through capacitor (41), diode (22), resistor (11), and then back to neutral (2).. The voltage that is developed across capacitor (41) (approximately 7v/step in this case) is a function of the value capacitor (40) and capacitor (41) and the number of iterations (each cycle) that this process undergoes. For the first few

cycles of the ac input signal, zener diodes (30 and 31) are not active components in the circuit and only become active after capacitor voltage reaches the zener threshold as seen in FIG. 3. Furthermore, during the positive-half cycle of the ac input signal, transistor (50) will be in the off state.

[0032] FIG. 2 shows the active components of the embodiment when the voltage at L_1 (1) is negative. During the negative-half cycle of the ac input signal, diode (23) may conduct current that flows into capacitor (43), through resistor (11) and then back to neutral (2). The voltage that is developed across capacitor (43) (approximately 1.5 v/step in this case) is a function of the values of capacitors ~~(40 and 42)~~ (40 and 43) and the number of iterations that this process undergoes. For the first few cycles of the ac input signal, zener diodes (32 and 33) may not be active components in the circuit. As shown in FIG. 4, the zener diodes become active after the capacitor voltage reaches the zener threshold. The transistor (50) will be turned on as soon as the line voltage goes negative and when this occurs, capacitor (41) is then discharged into capacitor (42). The discharge path is : transistor (50) collector to emitter, to resistor (12), to capacitor (41), to diode (21), to capacitor (42). This results in a voltage reversal at the anode of diode (21). This process will continue until the voltage on capacitor (42) is equal to the combined zener voltages of ~~zener diode (30) and zener diode (31)~~ zener diode (32) and zener diode (33). The values of resistor (13) and resistor (14) determine the actual voltage threshold for transistor (50), and resistor (12) is present to limit the collector current to some tolerable level. In FIG. 5A (for dual negative supplies) and FIG. 5B (dual positive supplies), transistor (50) is shown in the common emitter configuration. FIG. 5c (dual negative supplies and 5D (dual positive supplies) show transistor (50) in the common source configuration.

[0033] The end result is the circuit may deliver two positive or two negative power supplies as opposed to the single negative and single positive power supply disclosed as prior art.

[0034] In another embodiment of the invention, a dual positive or dual negative power supply circuit may include a relay voltage (V_1), which may be controlled by a microprocessor to provide a safety feature for an electronic device. The relay voltage may be used to power additional circuits, which require insulation from component faults. For example, the relay voltage may be used to power a gas valve. If the gas valve is unintentionally activated, a fire may inadvertently occur.

[0035] In FIG. 9, an embodiment of the invention is shown with dual positive power supplies. The component values shown in FIG. 9 are for illustrative purposes only and are

not intended to limit disclosure. Dual negative power supplies may be provided similar to the previous embodiments by simple component modifications.

[0036] FIG. 9 shows an embodiment of the invention that is similar to the embodiment shown in FIG. 5B with the exception of R_4 and R_5 . In FIG. 5B, during the negative-half cycle of the ac input signal, R_4 and R_5 appropriately cycled Q_1 to develop voltage on C_3 , in order to provide a second positive voltage supply, which may be the same polarity as the first supply voltage. In the embodiment FIG. 9, R_4 and R_5 (FIG. 5B) may be replaced with a level shifter circuit including the following elements: R_5 , R_6 , R_{47} , Q_9 and Q_2 . In addition, for safety, D_5 and R_8 may be added to provide a line synchronization to a microprocessor (not shown). This configuration allows a microprocessor to directly control this portion of the power supply. When the microprocessor controls this portion of the circuit, the power supply may be directly inhibited to prevent any voltage from building at relay supply voltage V_R . If the relay supply voltage is inhibited, a single component fault (*e.g.*, shorted drive transistor connected to the relay coil) will not cause the relay to activate without permission from the microprocessor. Furthermore, the relay voltage may be disabled by leaving Q_1 continuously activated.

[0037] In FIG. 9, line voltage (L_1) may be connected to reactive element C_1 (2.7 μ F 250V) to provide a voltage drop in the supply and to introduce a $+90^\circ$ current phase shift. Resistor R_{46} (1.0 M Ω 0.25W) may be connected in parallel with C_1 to dissipate any charge remaining when power is removed. C_1/R_{46} , may then be connected to current limiting resistors R_1 and R_2 (27 Ω 1W each). Note that R_2 is in series with neutral. This is followed by shunt capacitor C_{12} (0.047 μ F 100V) and series inductor L_1 (560 μ H) for noise filtering. The filter's output may then be fed to rectifier diodes D_1 , D_2 , D_4 and D_5 (1N4007 each), and is also sent to the line sync circuit.

[0038] Similar to the previous embodiments, during the negative half-cycles of the ac input signal, the signal may be applied to the rectifier circuit, diodes D_2 and D_4 . The diodes conduct to charge filter capacitor C_5 (100 μ F 63V). The voltage may be limited or regulated by a series string of zener diodes Z_3 , Z_4 , and Z_5 (18V 1N4746 each) connected across D_4 and C_5 . The output of the voltage regulator circuit, Z_3 , Z_4 , and Z_5 , may be a first dc output voltage exhibiting a first polarity.

[0039] During the positive half-cycles of the input signal, diode D_1 conducts to charge filter capacitor C_2 (100 μ F 16V). The voltage across C_2 may be clamped or regulated by a voltage regulator, shunt zener diode Z_1 and Z_6 (5.1V 1N4733A each). This node may then be fed through resistor R_3 (22 Ω 0.25W) to shunt zener diode Z_2 (5.1V 1N5993), which

results in a regulated 5 dc (V_{cc}), a second dc output voltage with the same polarity as the first dc output voltage. V_{cc} may be used by the microprocessor and other related circuitry.

[0040] In this embodiment, a relay supply voltage (V_R) may be established during positive half-cycles of the ac input signal by transferring a charge from capacitor C_5 to C_4 (470uF 63V) through diode D_3 (1N4007) and resistor R_4 (51 Ω 0.25 W). The circuit may be completed by turning on transistor Q_1 (MPSA06) to provide a return path to C_5 . Q_1 may be controlled by a microprocessor (not shown) through a level shifter made up of transistors Q_2 (2N2907) and Q_9 (MPSA56) along with resistors R_5 (1.5 Ω 0.25W), R_6 (47 Ω 0.25W), R_{47} (47k Ω 0.25W), R_{45} (470k Ω 0.25W), and R_7 (470k Ω 0.25W). Furthermore, the relay voltage may be disabled by leaving Q_1 continuously activated. The microprocessor must provide a signal to Q_2 for V_R to develop voltage. If the microprocessor fails to provide a synchronized signal to Q_2 , the relay voltage will not develop.

[0041] The microprocessor may require synchronization with the incoming signal to properly operate the circuit. If the line synchronization is lost, the control will lock out. The line sync circuit generates a logic level square wave at line frequency. This signal may be used by the microprocessor and other circuitry for synchronization.

[0042] The input of the line ~~sync~~sync section is connected to the output of the power supply's front end. Then diode D_5 (1N4007) rectifies the ac signal such that the current flows only for positive-half cycles of the input signal. D_5 is followed by R_8 (16k Ω 0.25 W), which is then connected to pull-down resistor R_9 (47 Ω 0.25W) (not shown).

[0043] The junction of R_8 and R_9 may be connected to the microprocessor, where input clamping diodes will limit the peak voltage to one diode drop above +5V. This voltage may also be fed to other circuitry.

ABSTRACT

The positive half-cycle for an ac input signal is applied to a wave rectifier (20, 22), a filter (41) and a voltage regulator (30, 31) for generating a dc output signal. The ac input signal is also applied to a transistor (50) in either the common emitter or common source configuration which shifts the ac input signal by 180 degrees. This signal is then applied to another rectifier (21, 23) for converting the shifted ac input signal into a pulsating dc output signal. Then shifted dc output signal is applied to a second capacitor filter to reduce the signal variations. The final stage for the second output stage is also a voltage regulator (32, 33) (*i.e.*, two series zener diodes). The transformerless power supply produces either a dual positive or dual negative dc voltage supply. In addition, the voltage supply circuits may include a relay voltage, which may be controlled by a control circuit.